

Attorney Docket No.: 23546-09735US (Isis Ref: ISPH-0828)
Serial No.: 10/773,678
Page 4

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the instant application. An Office Action has restricted the pending claims into the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1-13, drawn to compounds targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding STAT3 and a pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound;

Group II: Claim 14, drawn to methods of inhibiting the expression of STAT3;
and

Group III: Claims 15-18, drawn to a method of inducing apoptosis in cancer cells.

The Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-13, without traverse. The Applicants have withdrawn claims 14-18 as suggested by the Examiner and request that the claims be considered upon allowance of claim 1. All of the limitations of claim 1 were already incorporated into the claims so that they may be considered for rejoinder upon allowance of claim 1.

A restriction of the sequences listed in claim 1 was also made by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended as set forth above to recite only a single SEQ ID NO, SEQ ID NO 342.

Attorney Docket No.:
Serial No.:
Page 5

23546-09735US (Isis Ref: ISPH-0828)
10/773,678

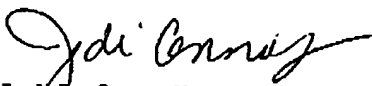
II. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early office action on the merits of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

7/14/05


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